



April 24, 2022

*Morning Worship and Children's Programs at 10:00 AM*

***United Church of Strafford***

230 Justin Morrill Highway  
PO Box 124, Strafford, VT 05072  
802-765-4585(church) 765-2710(parsonage)  
Email: unitedchurchofstraftford@gmail.com  
rev.thomas.cary.kinder@gmail.com  
For Pastoral Care: revdeadra@gmail.com  
Website: unitedchurchofstraftford.com

***Our Church Covenant***

*We gather together with freedom of conscience  
in a community of love and inquiry.*

*All are welcome, without exception.*

*We practice Christianity with faith and compassion.*

*We covenant with one another to embody the love of Christ,  
to nurture contemplation and action,  
and to offer our gifts, talents and energies as we are able.*

***United Church of Strafford, Vermont***

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter, Earth Day Sunday

*MH=Methodist Hymnal; PH=Pilgrim Hymnal*

Something beautiful has begun. Advocates for racial justice and for environmental protection are beginning to come together in new ways.... Both have called for a deep restructuring of society and economy. And in both cases that call rests on an affirmation of life in all its fullness and of the devoted care that life requires of us.... Simply put, the operating system in which we live and work is programmed for the wrong results. It needs to be reprogrammed so that it genuinely sustains and restores human and natural communities.... Subjugation of nature and non-human life creates the model for the subjugation of human beings.... Full dignity requires that humans be re-connected to each other and to the natural world that sustains all life. How do we overcome our tragic legacy of subordination of nature to humans and of humans to other humans...? Love, care, respect—these we owe both to each other and to the natural world. Their common wellspring is an attitude of the heart—an abiding humility, awe, and reverence in the face of life's wondrous creations. *Gus Speth in a Reflection Here, November 12, 2020*

**Gathering Music**

Becky Bailey

**Silent Prayer of Invocation**

Pastor Tom Kinder

**Prelude**

**Blessing and Lighting the Peace Candle**

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of the world.

People: **The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness does not overcome it.**

Leader: Let us pray for peace and the things that make for peace  
as we light the peace candle.

*page one*

**Introit** For the Beauty of the Earth *verses 1 and 4*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Call to Worship**

**Responsive Reading** *from Psalm 16* Ingrid Webb

Leader: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

You are my God. I have no good apart from you.

**People: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all my delight.**

Leader: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows.

**People: O God, you are my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.**

Leader: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
I have a goodly heritage.

**People: You give me counsel, O God, and I bless you for it;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.**

Leader: I keep you always before me;  
because you are at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

**People: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.**

**All: You show me the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

**\*Hymn** The Strife Is O'er *hymn folder*

### **Children's Time and Lord's Prayer**

**Anthem** We Meet You, O Christ

*You choose to be made at one with the earth...*

**Scripture Reading** John 20:19-31

**Sermon** Now the Green Blade Rises

**\*Hymn** MH #311 Now the Green Blade Riseth

### **Sharing of Joys, Concerns, Prayer Requests and Reflections**

*Reflection Questions:* What does resurrection mean to you? Where have you seen it? Where do you hope it will happen now?

### **Time of Prayer**

### **Call to Offering**

### **\*Benediction**

**\*Sung Benediction Response** PH #451 Turn Back O Man

**Silent Prayer** *We invite you to end the service in a spirit of prayer.*

### **Postlude**

**Video recorded services, bulletins and newsletters** are available  
on our website [unitedchurchofstrafford.com](http://unitedchurchofstrafford.com).

See us on **Facebook** at United Church of Strafford

Sign up for **weekly emails** about upcoming worship and other news  
at [unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com](mailto:unitedchurchofstrafford@gmail.com)

*Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

*page three*

*page two*

### **Spiritual Exploration for the Children**

#### **How Can Stories from Different Faith Traditions Help Us To Understand How to Be a Good Neighbor?**

This Sunday, the children will start out in the sanctuary and will head back to the Parish Hall with Joey after Tom's Time with the Children and the anthem. We will share our joys and concerns, review the theme for the unit and sing "This Little Light of Mine" which reminds us to let our light shine by helping our neighbors. Then, Joey will introduce the faith tradition from which the story comes, read the story twice (perhaps acting it out the second time) and then illustrate the story. This Sunday, we will read the story of Sulaiman and the Ants from Islam. We hope that your children will join us!

If you have questions, please contact one of us.

With love,

Danette Harris and Joey Hawkins

### **Mission Committee Good News and THANK YOU!**

Thank you so much for all of the generous donations to World Central Kitchen which is helping to feed Ukrainian refugees and citizens still in Ukraine. We sent a total of \$3,015 from our church and community to help with World Central Kitchen's heroic efforts. Many thanks to all!

**Pastoral Care** The Rev. Deadra Ashton is now our Pastoral Care Provider. If you are in need of spiritual direction or of individual, couples or family pastoral counseling, please be in touch with Deadra at [revdeadra@gmail.com](mailto:revdeadra@gmail.com) or by leaving a message on the church phone at 765-4585.

**Heartfulness Contemplative Training Circle** gathers weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM in person and by Zoom and offers an informal meditation all other evenings at 7:30 PM. You are invited to be part of the circle anytime. Please see our website Welcome page for details and the different Zoom links for the two standing events.

*page four*

**Update on Mask Wearing at Church** The Steering Committee met this past week to look at what is currently happening with Covid numbers in our community and area. Unfortunately, there is the numbers are ticking up a bit and the experts are talking about another possible surge. We feel we still need to be cautious, so we recommended to the church Council to **continue the mask requirement in church for the time being**. Every other pew will continue to be roped off for now. We also recommended that we resume having **refreshments outside after church** as we did last summer and fall. This will begin on Easter, weather permitting! *from The Steering Committee*

**Next Concerts** Held on Fridays (except where noted), 7:00-8:15 PM. Admission by donation, 20% goes to the church's Manheim Fund for the Arts.

April 29<sup>th</sup> "Family and Friends" Annemieke McLane, piano

May 13<sup>th</sup> Cassotto Duo (Jeremiah & Annemieke McLane)

**Fulfilling Our Vision** The Fulfilling Our Vision committee depends on additional people joining in when they are interested in specific projects. We are resuming our focus on anti-racism and becoming officially Open to and Affirming of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Please speak with Tom if you are interested. The vision we are fulfilling is our Future Directions Statement that you can find on the pew card or Welcome page of our website. It says in part, "The United Church of Stratford aspires to be a community of open hearts and minds embracing differences and diverse traditions, extending faithful Christ-like love and support to all, reaching out especially to those in need. We intend to be a force, not merely a presence, effecting positive social change for peace, justice and the care of God's creation."

### **Haiku by Mel Goertz:**

A fox den under a fallen tree.  
The young kits  
play in the branches.

*page five*